



State Senator **Hansen Clarke**

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Senator Hansen Clarke Announces Low-Cost Prescription Drug Program and Expanded Health Care Coverage

■ Low-Cost Prescription Drug Programs

Michigan Prescription Discount Card (MiRx Card)

The Michigan Prescription Discount Card program (MiRx Card) began more than a year ago. It is a state program that allows uninsured residents to get prescription drugs at a discount. The card

will lower prescription drug costs for Michigan's more than 1,000,000 uninsured residents. This is a free service. Those who enroll in the program can expect to save approximately 20 percent off the retail price of common prescription drugs when they present their MiRx card at participating pharmacies. However, savings will be determined by the

kinds of medications used, and if they are generic or brand-name drugs. The card can be used at more than 2,000 pharmacies throughout the state.

To qualify for the program the following is required of participants:

- Their family members must only be Michigan residents
- They must not have other prescription drug coverage
- They must have an income level at or below the state's median income level
 - For a single individual the median income level is \$27,930
 - For a family of four that income level is \$56,550

Applications are available at pharmacies. You can also call the program at (866) 755-6479.



Capitol Outlook

Hansen Clarke

State Senator • 1st District • Toll-free 877.252.7537



Dear Friends:

While some of us are fortunate enough to enjoy good health, there are many among our families, neighbors and friends who need prescription drugs, because of poor health. However, the cost of prescription drugs has risen at an alarming rate. This has made it extremely difficult for seniors, low-income families and those on fixed incomes to get the medicines they need.

More than 43,000,000 Americans don't have health coverage. Yet, the cost continues to escalate. In Michigan, more than 1,000,000 residents don't have health insurance. Sadly, many of them are in working families. So, there are Michigan residents who go to work every day and still can't afford to get sick or for one of their family members to get sick. The cost of medication has become so high that some people have even had to choose between buying groceries and buying medication. No one should ever have to make that kind of choice.

This has to change. My colleagues and I are working hard for you in the State Senate to make health care affordable for all Michigan citizens.

Sincerely,

Hansen Clarke

Hansen Clarke • State Senator

■ Senator Clarke Supports Expanded Health Care Coverage for Uninsured

Senator Hansen Clarke supports Governor Jennifer Granholm's proposed Michigan First Health Care plan, a program designed to expand affordable health coverage to more than half a million people who do not currently have insurance. Michigan First will reduce the cost of health care for all Michigan residents by

decreasing uncompensated care costs and decreasing emergency room use by encouraging participants to manage health problems before they become severe.

Michigan First works similar to Medicaid and requires financial contributions on the part of the participant on a sliding scale proportional to income. It is, in essence, a state-

organized group-purchasing plan that provides small business, the self employed, and other individuals, who do not get health insurance through work, but do not qualify for Medicaid, an opportunity to purchase insurance at a more affordable rate. The program operates under the principles of managed care, and a variety of plans will be available.